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SENATOR BISHOP APPLAUDS RESTORATION OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

LANSING - Senator Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, today announced his support for "Priority First!", a program which restores funding for 34 key road projects in Michigan. The "Priority First!" project will allow local communities to continue critical road projects which Governor Jennifer Granholm has "deferred".

"We must not pull the rug out from under local communities who are counting on these projects to enhance their economic growth future and address transportation needs that exists today," Senator Bishop said. "The projects in my area include:"

- No 13 M-59/Crooks Road , Rochester Hills
- No. 14 M-59 from Crooks Road to Ryan Road
- No. 15 I-75/M-59 Auburn Hills
- No. 20 I-75 south of Chrysler Drive to M-24 Auburn Hills
- No. 21 M-59/Adams Road, Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills

"Priorities First!" seeks to restore the funding for projects which were part of a long term plan to upgrade Michigan's transportation infrastructure. These projects have met and passed objective tests on their merits. Gov. Granholm's surprising announcement to "defer" these programs and re-direct monies to the city of Detroit have provoked an outrage. Local governments and citizens who were planning on these improvements saw the rug pulled out from underneath them by the Granholm administration. Her initiative takes money from the growth areas of the state and funnels it into less needed and less critical repairs for Detroit.

“Even during tough economic times we must not just stop planning for the future,” Bishop said. “Moving these projects toward will only help build Michigan a stronger future.”

“Priorities First!” sets a sharp contrast between the Senate plan for the future of economic development in Michigan and the Governor’s short-sighted, unidentified plan.

Two public hearing have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted, Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place Monday, May 5 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Oakland County Commission Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac.

Comments from Senator Bishop on “Priorities First” is available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at: www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/
The comments are also available by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000.